

Devens RFTA Dispatch

www.devens.army.mil

Vol. 59, No. 5

Serving the Reserve Forces Training Area

April 1999

405th CSH trains real-time at Devens

by Eric J. Hurwitz
94th RSC Public Affairs

The 405th Combat Support Hospital, of West Hartford, Conn., operates in a most surgical manner, no pun intended.

With 602 military personnel assigned, the CSH, commanded by Lt. Col. Brian Cooper, upon mobilization, deploys and occupies a designated area -- anywhere in the world -- and establishes a 296-bed hospital, providing hospitalization support and services.

Training for real-time situations is a very serious matter and, as no surprise, the 405th cares deeply about its specialized mission. Lt. Col. Kathleen Ireland, assistant chief nurse of the 405th, has been at the CSH for a year-and-one-half, and regards her current assignment as the best in a 20-year military career.

"I love it here," said Ireland. "The people are very knowledgeable and willing to

teach. It's a great place to be."

This is no manufactured, generic, contrived sales pitch. Her feelings on the 405th derive from something she truly believes in, as do many stationed at this suburban location, where mission duty and community awareness shine.

The 405th has been actively involved in rigorous training during the summers at the Devens RFTA's South Post. In September of 1997, the 405th, along with several other medical units participated in an 804th Medical Brigade exercise that performed simulated exercises on wounded patients, transporting them by helicopter, to a field hospital. Here, the scenario was Southwest Asia during a 24-hour day operation.

405th personnel quickly find out that although similarities exist between civilian and military hospitals, there are significant differences.

Within a 72-hour period
405th, see page 4



Photo by Dean Johnson

Saying goodbye

Devens Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Johnston and wife, Master Sgt. Melissa Johnston, 94th RSC, said goodbye to the installation staff at a luncheon held at the Bull Run in Shirley, Mar. 26. Over 60 people attended the farewell ceremony honoring the Johnstons who will be relocating to Fort McCoy, Wis., where Randy will be the new Commandant of the NCO Academy. Command Sgt. Maj. Sheila Williams, Fort Lewis, Wa., will be the new Devens RFTA CSM tentatively arriving May 17, 1999.

Commander's Corner

The month of April includes several days of significance. We have the religious observances of Easter and Passover. We also commemorate the Battles of Lexington and Concord as well as the founding of the U.S. Army Reserve. We celebrate Earth Day to rededicate ourselves to protecting the environment. Finally, we recognize some very special employees on Secretaries Day. At Devens, as Spring finally begins to arrive, we will see an increase in activity as we prepare for the peak training season.

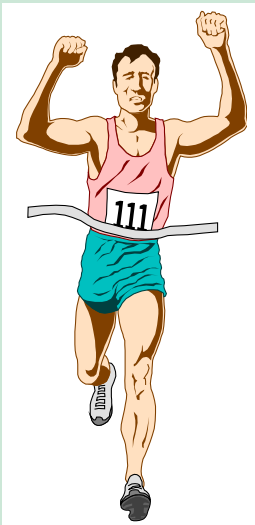
Our new Distance Learning Center will open under the management of Mr. Chuck Furbay. On April 16th we will kick off our annual Army Emergency Relief campaign with a 5K road race. For you marathoners, this will be a good preparation prior to going to Hopkinton on the 19th. For the rest of us, it will be an opportunity for some fun and fresh air. I'll pledge an extra dollar to AER for every runner who beats me, so come on out and give it a try.



Lt. Col. Murdough, commander,
Devens RFTA

Army Emergency Relief Fun Run/Walk

There are three things you can do on April 16, 1999 from 9 -11 a.m. at building 666, 30 Quebec Street, Devens, Mass.



- 1. Train for the Boston Marathon
19 April 99.*
- 2. Panic that your taxes weren't
sent yesterday.*
- 3. Help others by contributing to
AER by running or walking
the FUN/Run or TALK/Walk*

- One of these will make you feel good.
- Run to your unit representative to contribute to Army Emergency Relief or make a donation the morning of the race.
- Call Mel at 978-796-3023 for more information.

Devens RFTA Training Stats

Reserve Unit Training
April 9 through April 16

**Total units
trained:**
35
**Total
personnel:**
3,132



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Biological warfare information highlights 804th symposium

by Eric J. Hurwitz
94th RSC Public Affairs

The 804th Medical Brigade recently held its 34th Annual Medical Symposium, this time focusing on biological warfare.

Held at the Marriott Hotel, Burlington, Mass., March 19-21, the symposium brought a myriad of timely information to hundreds of attendees, including civilian, military, foreign and international experts on biological warfare.

Col. Ronald D. Silverman, commander of the 804th Medical Brigade, served as the first speaker. He set a tone by stating, "Bio-



Past and present commanders of the 804th Medical Brigade and Romanian visitors, attended the 804th Medical Brigade's thirty-fourth Medical Symposium held at the Marriott Hotel in Burlington, Mass., Mar. 20. Col. (P) Ronald D. Silverman hosted the event.
Photos by Jan Abate

logically, has been overshadowed by the chemical and nuclear

logical weapons.

threat is now on center stage. The ease with which these weapons of mass destruction can be produced and disseminated to unprotected civilian and military populations is now being addressed at the highest levels of our command structure."

Brig. Gen. Donna Barbiach, deputy chief of staff, Clinical Services, 3rd Medical Command, Decatur, Ga., followed the keynote address on the role of the USAR in domestic bioterrorism. Her speech paved the way for a multitude of speakers discussing topics such as why biological weapons have taken center stage, etiologic agents of biological warfare, using the anthrax vaccine in force health protection, casualty management in a biological warfare environment and the psychological dimension of biological warfare.

Foreign dignitaries added additional perspective to this vital topic. Brig. Gen. Arie Eldad, surgeon general, of the Israel Defense Forces, Jerusalem, Israel, spoke on the Israeli's viewpoint of bio-

logical weapons. Maj. Sam Poulten, community outreach coordinator for the 804th, regarded this event as "one of the most successful (804th) symposia, because of the timely nature of the topics."

He added, "We may have specific themes here, but out of it comes a sharing of broader knowledge from the civilian and military communities. You know, I spoke to civilians here and they commented that they didn't know that reservists do so much. They said 'Are they just reservists?' I told them that many reservists feel it's not 'something else they do,' it's *what they do*."

Poulten said he was particularly impressed with the lecture on anthrax vac-



United States Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Ronald R. Blanck lectures the audience on "The Chemical and Biological Threat and AMEDD's Response" during the 804th Medical Brigade's thirty-fourth Medical Symposium, Mar. 20.

405th CSH specializes in training mission

405th, from page 1

iod, the 405th doctors, nurses and other specialists not only perform their medical duties, but they also set-up the hospital, including building tents, setting-up beds, emergency and operating rooms, a pharmacy and food area.

Although this is a complete hospital, Ireland says that the 405th does not perform surgery "unless absolutely necessary. We're here to save a life or a limb, but beyond that..."

To acclimate to this different environment, students are sent to school to learn the differences between military and civilian hospitals, and how to care for a patient. A patient's length of stay might differ from that at a civilian hospital. And there are opportunities that a civilian hospital employee might never experience — sometimes with a risk involved.

In November of 1996, The Army deployed 68 doctors, soldiers and nurses from the 405th to Bosnia. It was the first reserve unit sent there; they returned in November of 1997. Despite the destitute, troubled times in Bosnia, Ireland—who was not part of the deployment—reports that the experience was a positive one.

"Everyone (who went) thought it was a positive experience," said Ireland. "There were long, hard hours, but people came back with more knowledge of their work."

Regarding the safety, she said, "They were in a secured compound, where they worked 12 hour shifts. There was not much threat



Lt. Col. Kathleen Ireland, assistant chief nurse, and Maj. James McMahon, intermediate care ward for the 405th CSH, take a moment to tell the 405th's story to *The Dispatch*.
Photo by Eric Hurwitz

of danger to them."

Ireland, like others at the 405th, went from a civilian world to the military, although she made the switch in her 30s. The demands seemed significant, but the ultimate reward has kept her in the field for the past 20 years.

"There was so much that was very disconcerting when I entered the military," said Ireland. "I'm sure those who come here may feel that way at first, but you have to give it a chance. It's a big challenge, but for me, it turned out great. It's for patriotism and helping out this country. You do it for more than the

money. I do this because I enjoy working with others wanting to make a difference."

A great aspect of the 405th is their community awareness. The CSH has held blood drives, as well as food and clothing drives. They have also helped Boy Scouts in winter survival camp-out programs and have worked with local communities to improve housing and shelter programs for the needy.

Maj. James McMahon, who works in the intermediate care ward, would encourage anyone seeking a meaningful, challenging career to enter the Army. With an affinity for the medical field, he strongly recommends that particular field for those who have an interest in potentiating their skills.

"I came into the Army, and 'wow,' I've seen



The 405th Combat Support Hospital participated in a "Clothing Drive" last year as part of their community awareness program.
File photo

804th Medical shares community knowledge during symposium

804th, from page 3

nations, which he believes "is a safe and necessary" precaution for the protection of soldiers, and the 399th Combat Support Hospital's presentations which shared real-life experiences focusing on their Joint Readiness Training Center Rotation this past summer.

The symposium also gave international dignitaries a taste of a different culture. Dr. Liviu Hentea, medical director for the military hospital and district of Brasov, Rumania, attended the symposium at the invitation of the 804th after Maj. Poulten had an opportunity to tour their facilities in Romania last month. Unlike hospital commanders in the U.S., Hentea is expected to maintain a full patient load as well as overseeing the surrounding military district. Accompanying Hentea was Maj. Adrian Georgesdu, an orthopedic surgeon on Hentea's staff. With Poulten, they toured the Boston

area. They met with Gov. Paul Cellucci and Cong. Marty Meehan (D-Mass., 5th District), as well as Lowell and Chelmsford town officials, which both presented the two Rumanians with keys to their communities.

Hentea and Georgesdu also toured Lowell General Hospital, Saints Memorial and Mass General, marveling at the luxurious hospital settings and distribution of work. In Rumania, for example, a doctor, might perform four appendectomies in one hour, while in the U.S., the average is one, as Rumanian staffs are smaller and patient loads are heavier, according to Poulten.

While touring various schools, the two Rumanians saw the Waltham High School parking lot filled with cars. They asked why there were so many teachers at the school. Poulten replied that most of the cars belonged to students. The two Rumanians were amazed – Georgesdu worked as an orthopedic surgeon for 13 years before purchasing his first car at age 39.

Poulten commented that



Lt. Gen. Ronald R. Blanck, Army surgeon general, receives a plaque from Col. Ronald D. Silverman, 804th commander at the Medical Brigade's symposium, Mar. 20.
Photo by Jan Abate

the Rumanian doctors possess a tremendous amount of satisfaction in their work, and make little more financially than other people in their country.

"Every country has its own luxury," said Poulten. "They lead comfortable lives, the doctors. What they don't have in money, they have in prestige."

Poulten concluded, "The symposium couldn't have been better, special thanks to Col. Silverman, Peter Gailis, and Col. Gary du Moulin for giving me a great deal of opportunity to integrate the Rumanians into this weekend."

Those involved in set-

ting up the symposium were Col. Gary du Moulin, program chair; Col. Elaine Parker, program coordinator; Lt. Col. Lisa Eckhoff, continuing education; Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Peter Gailis, facilities and housing; Maj. Carmen Santiago, protocol; Lt. Col. Edgar Batsford, advertising and booths; Capt. Micahel Zannelli, publishing; Glenda Bishop, mailings and registration; Master Sgt. Thomas Quintal, color guard; Chief Warrant Officer Kathryn Niemasik, music; Michael King, finance; and Lt. Col. Susan Skea, MD, Col. Arnold Mazur, MD, and Lt. Col. Brian Cooper, MD, medical advisory board.

405th CSH specializes in training mission, continues...

more, done more than ever could be imagined," said McMahon. "The Army afforded me tremendous opportunity to grow in this field. I've been to different parts of the country and world – New Mexico, Florida, Atlanta, California, Guatemala."

He adds, "You are forced to grow, or you won't survive. Educational opportu-

nities are always there – for EMTs, medics, whoever. Or you can take advantage of the money (available) to become something else."

Like Ireland, he enjoys the total experience, not just the chance to specialize in one's field.

"The doctors and nurses use hammers (in constructing the hospital, that is), build hospitals, it's amazing," said McMahon. "They're slamming down planks

digging holes, setting – up tents. In 72 hours, it goes up and comes down."

Aside from the obvious career growth, McMahon adds, with a smile, that the other reward is the 405th's food. "They have the greatest food. We won an award for this region. They just keep getting better and better. How they keep getting better and better, I

don't know."

While the food keeps getting better and better, so does, more importantly the Combat Support Hospital's camaraderie, McMahon said.

"Here, it's as rudimentary as you can get. You build, you work, you overcome difficulties, and grow. I highly recommend this," said McMahon.

Army News Briefs

The first annual training on the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area's "The Village Green" was conducted from Mar. 3 through Mar. 27. Thirty-four soldiers from the 11th Battalion, 5th Brigade (HS), 98th Division (IT), based on Devens, attended Phase 1 of the Field Medic training course. Thirty-three soldiers completed the training and graduated Mar. 26. Upon successful completion of Phase 2, which is scheduled for August, the graduating soldiers will be awarded the MOS/position title for 91B10. Robert O'Brien, director, Directorate of Plans and Training, commented, "The soldiers were very pleased to occupy the newly-renovated building 637." O'Brien explained that each room is outfitted with a desk and study area for every student, thereby enhancing the intense training that ran from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., daily. --- *Liz Leger*



Photo by Dean Johnson

Students from the 11th Battalion, 5th Brigade, 98th Division, learn the techniques of childbirth. Skills from taking blood pressure to applying sterile dressings to using a syringe were taught, as part of the exercises.

Music video presents the Total Army Story

by Sgt. 1st Class Connie E. Dickey

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 22, 1999) - The Army is distributing more than 7,000 music videos this month to senior leaders and major units worldwide.

By blending several styles of music and video clips, the Army produced a video designed to explain the partnership of the active Army, National Guard and Reserve to the American public.

The purpose of the video, "The Total Army Story," is to give leaders something to use with existing briefing slides and speeches to explain what the Total Army is, why it exists and the good it does for America.

Brig. Gen. Sue Dueitt, an individual mobilization augmentee for the deputy chief of public affairs, produced the video after receiving direction

from senior Army leadership.

"For community outreach purposes, we felt that the most powerful way to communicate was with vivid pictures and music," Dueitt said. "To help reconnect the Army to the American people, we wanted a video that not only told the Army story, but also left an audience feeling good.

"It was a total Army effort. We used stock footage from the Army Reserve, the National Guard, the Recruiting Command, the Army Materiel Command ... for shooting of original film footage, soldier and civilians volunteered from all three components. Our Army editors worked long hours and everyone was eager to produce a quality product with a long shelf life."

The video uses short pieces of footage interspersed in

four musical segments to tell the Total Army message. Each musical segment is under three minutes long. "The video had to be short, direct, easy to understand, colorful and fast-paced," Dueitt explained.

The first segment uses light rock to explain how the active Army, Guard and Reserve fit together as America's ground force; the second segment switches to a jazz/rap style to list the reasons America needs Army land forces, a country ballad in the third segment describes the rewards and sacrifices of Army life and a marching rhythm traces the Army's historical role in America in the final segment.

"The different musical styles match the diversity of our grassroots audiences. By being inclusive, hopefully there is something to please almost ev-

ery musical taste," Dueitt said.

Her "team" used focus group research to ensure the lyrics, when set to music and pictures, communicated the intended messages. Army values were emphasized throughout. The video features an original musical score by the United States Army Field Band with music composed by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Richards, lyrics by Dueitt and Richards and vocals by Sgt. Maj. John Montgomery, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Wells and Staff Sgt. Dana Rogers.

"The total Army benefits when its leaders, as guest speakers in their local communities, are able to portray the active Army, Guard and Reserve doing great things together as America's ground forces. With the four short segments in the music video, speakers now have four new ways to do just that," Dueitt concluded.

Devens RFTA Village Green profile

Birthday:
Capricorn

Margaret Donahue-Lynch, Contractor
Directorate of Information Management

Favorite TV show: Mystery.

Hometown:
Springfield, MA.

Favorite song: "High Sierra," Boz Scaggs

Family Status: Married to Jef, one son , Scott, 29.

What is your greatest achievement:
Getting this far in life.

Hobbies: Flying, gardening, hiking, & skiing.

Future goals: To be the best person I can be & be happy.

Pet Peeve: Waste.

Last movie watched: *Waking Ned Divine*.

What is your favorite journey? The one I haven't taken yet.

Which historical figure do you most identify with? Eleanor Roosevelt.

What is your favorite motto? Waste-not, want-not!

What do you most value in your friends? Understanding.

Which living person do you most admire? Madeline Albright.

Where would you like to live?
Asheville, North Carolina

Inspirations: Nature, family, & friends.

What occupation do you admire most? Farming.



What words do or phrases do you most overuse? Whatever!

Last book read: For Kings & Planets, Ethan Canin.

Interview and photo by Jan Abate

COLD WAR CERTIFICATE

On April 5, 1999 qualifying former and current service members and DoD civilians can apply for a certificate honoring them for their parts in winning the Cold War.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: Persons are eligible for the recognition certificate if they have military or civilian service with the War, Navy or Defense departments between Sept. 2, 1945, and Dec. 26, 1991.

MILITARY ELIGIBILITY: Military personnel can use any of the following documents as proof of service: DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release/Discharge from Active Duty); WD AGO Form 53-55 (War Department Separation Document); or Oath of Office -Military Personnel or Letter of Appointment. **Army officials caution applicants not to send original documents because they cannot be returned.**

OBTAINING MILITARY ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES: Write to: National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 9700 Page Ave. St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

PROVING CIVILIAN ELIGIBILITY: Qualifying civilian service can be proved with a Standard Form 50 (Notification of Personnel Action); Standard Form 2809 (Health Benefit Registration Form); an award certificate with employee's name, name of service or agency, and dates; or retirement forms with the employee's name, service or agency and dates.

OBTAINING CIVILIAN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES: Write to: U.S. OPM Center, Employee Service and Record Center, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045

APPLYING FOR THE CERTIFICATE: *VIA INTERNET: Go to <http://coldwar.army.mil>.

*VIA E-MAIL: Contact: cwrs@Fairfax-emhl.army.mil.

BY FAX: Call (703) 275-6749

BY MAIL: Send to: Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030

29TH ANNIVERSARY

EARTH DAY 1999

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Annual Meeting for HFCU Members!

Please join us at 6:30pm on Friday, May 7, 1999 at Moseley's On The Charles in Dedham, Mass. for an evening of good food, great company and the opportunity to participate in the democratic process on which credit unions are based. Tickets are just \$8. For more information or to pick up your tickets, stop by the Hanscom Federal Credit Union, located on Lexington Street, building 643, or call 772-5451. Don't miss out on this great evening!

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